

Item Subject: Rwanda: Refugee Highligh

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## RWANDA CRISIS

## REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

- \* **Rwandan Refugees:** Over 300,000 new Rwandans refugees have fled the violence that erupted following the April 6 assassination of President Habyarimana. Refugees have gone to Tanzania (250,000), Burundi (50,000), Uganda (5,500) and Zaire (3,300). There are also some 550,000 old Rwandan refugees whose families fled Rwanda during the 1959 - 1964 period. They are living in Burundi (245,000), Uganda (200,000), Tanzania (50,000) and Zaire (50,000).
- \* **Rwandan Displaced Persons:** ICRC estimates that at least 200,000 persons have been killed and at least one million displaced since April 6. Thousands of displaced persons, congregated near borders in an attempt to seek refuge in neighboring countries, have been prevented from fleeing by GOR and RPF military forces. Some 300,000 Rwandans, displaced from 1993 when the RPF took over territory in northern Rwanda, are believed to be returning home now that the RPF has moved south.
- \* **Burundi Refugees in Rwanda:** More than 300,000 Burundi refugees fled to Rwanda following the October 1993 coup attempt. About 25,000 repatriated in early 1994. Another 200,000 are reported to have fled back to Burundi following the outbreak of violence in Rwanda. The remainder are thought to have dispersed in southern Rwanda. Since the evacuation of most UN and NGO staff, assistance to Burundi refugees in Rwanda has been suspended.
- \* **Refugee Influx into Tanzania:** Since April 28 when the border to Tanzania was opened, more than 250,000 Rwandans have flooded into Tanzania. UNHCR, WFP, and other agencies had prepositioned staff, relief supplies, and food in anticipation of refugees, but the magnitude of this influx will likely be overwhelming.
- \* **Assistance to Displaced Persons:** The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in conjunction with the Rwandan Red Cross society and Medecins sans Frontieres/ France is providing some relief and medical care to conflict victims in Kigali. Due to lack of security, organizations have not yet been able to reach most displaced Rwandans. The possibility of cross-border programs from Uganda and Burundi is being explored.
- \* **State/RP Funding:** RP has contributed a total of \$5.5 million to UNHCR (\$4.25 million), IFRC (\$750,000), and WFP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
HARRY R. MELONE

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(\$502,700) for Burundi refugees. Additional funding is planned to respond to new Rwandan refugees and Burundi refugees and returnees.

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